

**REMARKS**

Claims 15-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 23-34 have been added. Accordingly, claims 23-34 are currently pending.

**Priority**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document.

**35 U.S.C. § 112**

New claims 23-34 comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have replaced the term "high permeability" with the recitation that the underlayer provided on the substrate has predetermined permeability characteristics. This limitation is included in each of independent claims 23 and 29.

**Double Patenting**

New claims 23-34 avoid the 35 U.S.C. §101 Double Patenting rejection identified in the Office Action. Further, the claims are not subject to rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,528,149 in view of Hikosaka et al, U.S.

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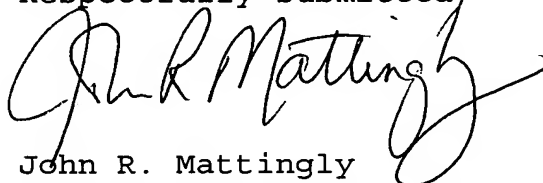
NIT-270-03

Patent No. 5,792,564 or claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,641,901  
in view of Hikosaka et al. Accordingly, the Examiner should  
find the claims to be allowable over the art of record.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,  
Applicants contend that the above-identified application is  
now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration  
and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted



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